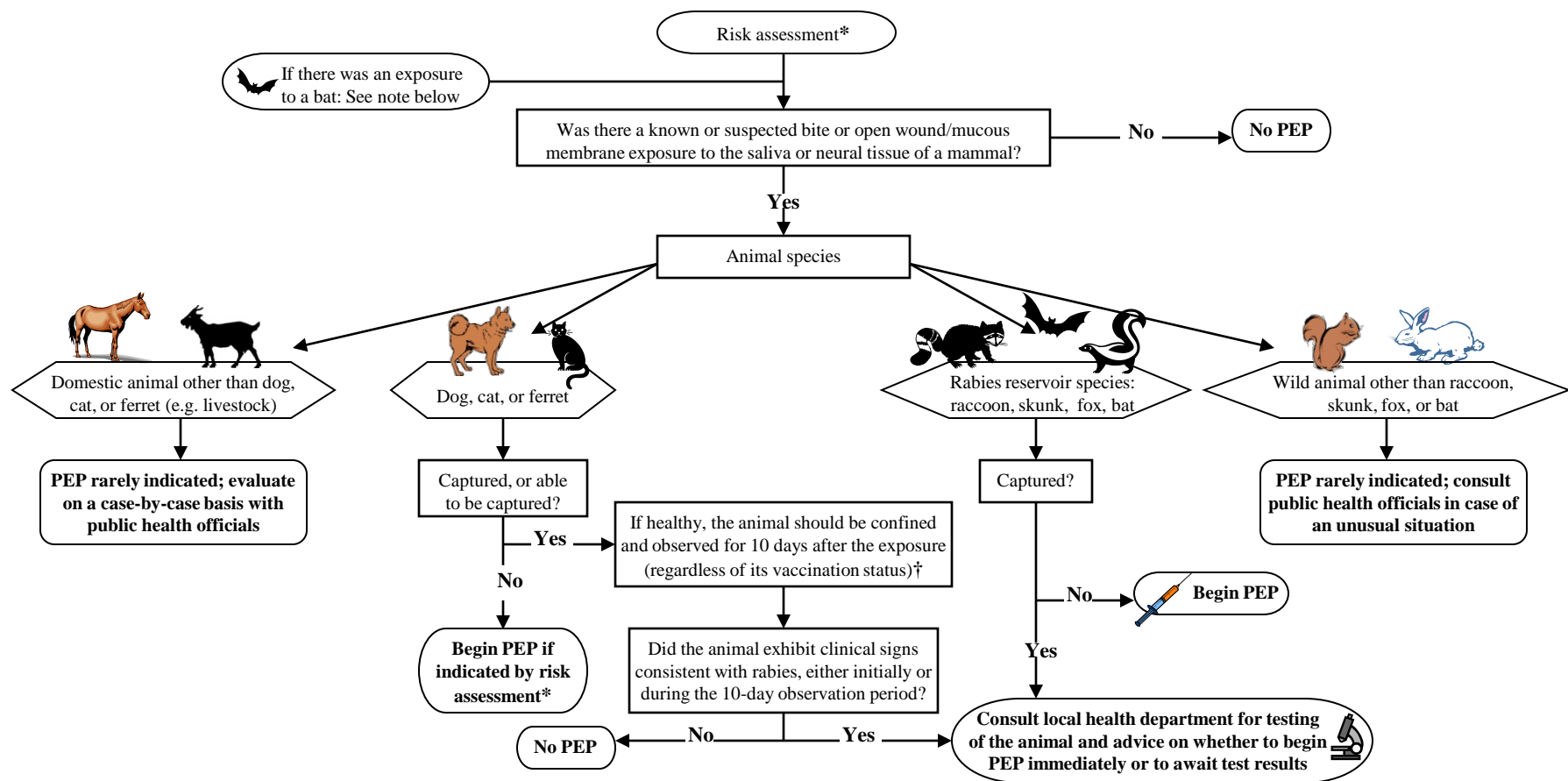


Indications for Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

General guidance only, intended to be used in combination with public health consultation



*Risk assessment includes the species of animal, its health/vaccination status, the circumstances of the exposure, and local rabies epidemiology. A non-bite exposure or a bite from an apparently healthy dog or cat, even if unvaccinated, is very unlikely to transmit rabies and rarely requires PEP. Possible exposure to rabies is a medical urgency, not an emergency. There is time to allow local animal control to attempt to locate the animal for observation or testing, as appropriate.

†The local health department should generally be involved in monitoring animals during the 10-day observation period; however, local animal control may perform this function in some areas.

Bat exposures: PEP is recommended for a person who has direct contact with a bat, unless the person can be certain that no bite occurred or the bat tests negative for rabies. When a bat is found indoors and there is no history of contact, the risk of exposure to rabies is typically very low. PEP can be considered for persons who were in the same room with a bat and might be unaware that direct contact had occurred (e.g. a deeply sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the room, or a bat is found in the room with an unattended child or incapacitated adult), and the bat is not available for testing. In such cases PEP is not warranted for other household members.

Public health officials are available by telephone 24 hours per day for consultation; however, health departments in Tennessee do not stock anti-rabies biologics for PEP. CDC no longer recommends a 5th dose of rabies vaccine for PEP in immunocompetent persons, although product package inserts do not reflect this change. For more detailed information, see the "Tennessee Department of Health Rabies Control Manual", available at [http://health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases/Disease/Rabies%20\(2\)/TNRabiesManual2012.pdf](http://health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases/Disease/Rabies%20(2)/TNRabiesManual2012.pdf).

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